

## Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile ALABAMA

**Updated: March 21, 2001**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

<b>Focus Areas Funded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment</li> <li>• Surveillance and Epidemiology – Core Capacity</li> <li>• Laboratory Capacity - Biologic Agents</li> <li>• Health Alert Network</li> </ul>
<b>Alabama has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing and activating a Program Advisory Council representing response constituencies;</li> <li>• Assessing the current training needs of the state and local workforce that will be involved in terrorism response;</li> <li>• Developing collaborative relationships with agencies, councils, teams, and others that can contribute to the overall level of bioterrorism preparedness;</li> <li>• Identifying a coordinator for the Department's Counter-terrorism program;</li> <li>• Collaborating with bordering states to coordinate surveillance response capabilities such as sharing capacities in training, surveillance techniques, and reporting;</li> <li>• Updating the Alabama Department of Health Manual for Emergency Health Services to include instructions concerning actions that need to be initiated when suspected terrorist activity has occurred;</li> <li>• Developing and disseminating a standardized notification scheme for reporting events that may have been perpetrated by a terrorist organization, including 24 hours/day notification. This system was successfully utilized during a recent Klingerman Virus hoax;</li> <li>• Conducting educational seminars for infection control practitioners, environmental personnel, hospital staff, laboratorians, and others;</li> <li>• Developing laboratory specifications, acquisitions, and equipment installation;</li> <li>• Conducting training of laboratory employees;</li> <li>• Creating an e-mail and broadcast fax facility as a component to the Department's webserver;</li> <li>• Developing a first-responder registration and database application;</li> <li>• Conducting 5 satellite broadcasts with 8,571 live viewers and 6,599 video viewers;</li> <li>• Hiring a full-time Training Coordinator; and,</li> <li>• Establishing a work plan to monitor and evaluate related activities and to ensure that all funded objectives are addressed.</li> </ul>

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**Project Year  
2 Plans  
(August 31,  
2000-August  
30, 2001)  
include:**

- Developing a comprehensive public health chemical and biological preparedness and response plan;
- Developing a specific strategy for addressing training needs;
- Continuing collaboration with agencies, councils, teams, a university center for domestic preparedness, and others that can contribute to the overall level of bioterrorism preparedness;
- Conducting and evaluating exercises in surveillance and investigation;
- Enhancing laboratory capacity;
- Establishing a comprehensive distance learning infrastructure to assure skills and competencies in bioterrorism;
- Establishing an Internet team to assist county health departments; and,
- Developing on-line information resources including a bioterrorism web page scheduled for completion April 30, 2001.

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<b>Key Emergency Contacts</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</td> <td>(770) 220-5200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Emergency Management Agency:</td> <td>(205) 280-2285</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</td> <td>(205) 252-7705 Birmingham</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</td> <td>(334) 438-3674 Mobile</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Public Health Agency:</td> <td>(334) 206-5200</td> </tr> </table>	Federal Emergency Management Agency:	(770) 220-5200	State Emergency Management Agency:	(205) 280-2285	Federal Bureau of Investigation:	(205) 252-7705 Birmingham	Federal Bureau of Investigation:	(334) 438-3674 Mobile	State Public Health Agency:	(334) 206-5200
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